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Provisional summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 29 April 2008, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Mérorès ..... (Haiti)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*) (E/2008/2/Add.1 and Corr.1)

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

1. **The President** said that, since consultations regarding the distribution of the Council's two rotating seats on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission were still ongoing, the elections for the Council's seven seats on that body would be held at a subsequent meeting.

Statistical Commission (E/2008/9/Add.2)

2. **The President** invited the Council to elect eight members to the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

3. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that China and Japan had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Armenia had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Mexico and Suriname had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

4. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from the Group of Asian States, the Group of Eastern European States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. *Armenia, China, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Suriname and the United Kingdom were elected members of the Statistical Commission.*

Commission on Population and Development (E/2008/9/Add.2)

7. **The President** invited the Council to elect 14 members to the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's forty-third session, in 2009, and expiring at the close of the Commission's forty-sixth session, in 2013.

8. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Bangladesh and Pakistan had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Belarus had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil, Cuba and Haiti had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Belgium, Germany, Israel and Switzerland had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

9. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. *Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Haiti, Israel, Pakistan, Rwanda and Switzerland were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development.*

12. **The President** invited the Council to elect two members from the Group of Western European and other States to the Commission on Population and Development to fill two outstanding vacancies, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's forty-fifth session, in 2012.

13. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Finland and the Netherlands had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

14. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

15. *It was so decided.*

16. *Finland and the Netherlands were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development.*

17. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for the Commission on Population and Development, he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from the Group of Asian States for a term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's forty-third session, in 2009, and

expiring at the close of the Commission's forty-sixth session, in 2013.

18. *It was so decided.*

Commission for Social Development (E/2008/9/Add.2)

19. **The President** invited the Council to elect 17 members to the Commission for Social Development for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's forty-eighth session, in 2009, and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-first session, in 2013.

20. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Ethiopia, Lesotho and Mauritius had been endorsed by the Group of African States; China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Philippines and Qatar had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Albania had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Haiti had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

21. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

22. *It was so decided.*

23. *Albania, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Lesotho, Mauritius, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Qatar and Switzerland were elected members of the Commission for Social Development.*

24. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for the Commission for Social Development, he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Eastern European States and two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning at the Commission's forty-eighth session, in 2009, and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-first session, in 2013.

25. *It was so decided.*

Commission on the Status of Women (E/2008/9/Add.2)

26. **The President** invited the Council to elect 11 members to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-fourth session, in 2009, and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-seventh session, in 2013.

27. **Mr. Davide** (Philippines) said that, in solidarity with the Group of Asian States and in order to strengthen further its relations with Iraq, the Philippines had withdrawn its candidacy in favour of Iraq.

28. **Ms. Khioka** (Iraq) expressed her delegation's appreciation to the Philippines.

29. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Guinea, Mauritania and Rwanda had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Iraq was the unendorsed candidate and Japan the endorsed candidate from the Group of Asian States; Belarus had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Colombia and Nicaragua had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Germany, Israel and Italy had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

30. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

31. *It was so decided.*

32. *Belarus, Colombia, Germany, Guinea, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Nicaragua and Rwanda were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2008/9/Add.2)

33. **The President** invited the Council to elect 20 members to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

34. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Algeria, the Comoros, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Sudan had been endorsed by the Group of African States; China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand had been endorsed

by the Group of Asian States; Romania and the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Cuba, El Salvador and Uruguay had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Belgium and Germany had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

35. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

36. *It was so decided.*

37. *Algeria, Austria, Belgium, China, the Comoros, Cuba, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Thailand and Uruguay were elected members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.*

38. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

39. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Sustainable Development (E/2008/9/Add.2 and Corr.1)

40. **The President** invited the Council to elect 16 members to the Commission on Sustainable Development for a three-year term beginning at the organizational meeting of the Commission's eighteenth session, in 2009, and expiring at the close of the Commission's twentieth session, in 2012.

41. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Nigeria had been endorsed by the Group of African States; China, Kyrgyzstan and the Philippines had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; the Russian Federation and Ukraine had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia and Cuba had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Australia was the unendorsed candidate and the United States of America the endorsed candidate from the Group of Western European and other States.

42. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

43. *It was so decided.*

44. *Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, China, Colombia, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development.*

45. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for the Commission on Sustainable Development, he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of two members from the Group of Western European and other States for a three-year term beginning at the organizational meeting of the Commission's eighteenth session, in 2009, and expiring at the close of the Commission's twentieth session, in 2012.

46. *It was so decided.*

47. **The President** recalled that there remained one outstanding vacancy on the Commission on Sustainable Development from the Group of Western European and other States for a term beginning at the organizational meeting of the Commission's seventeenth session, to be held the following month, and expiring at the close of the Commission's nineteenth session, in 2011.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2008/9/Add.2)

48. **The President** invited the Council to elect 20 members to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

49. **Ms. Calderón** (Observer for Costa Rica) informed the Council that Costa Rica had submitted its candidacy to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, but was not mentioned in the list of candidates before the Council.

50. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Ghana, Mali and South Africa had been endorsed by

the Group of African States; Jordan, Oman, Pakistan and Sri Lanka had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; the Russian Federation and Slovakia had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil and Chile were the endorsed candidates and Costa Rica the unendorsed candidate from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Israel and Switzerland had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

51. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

52. *It was so decided.*

53. *Austria, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Israel, Jordan, Mali, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Switzerland were elected members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.*

54. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of two members from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and two members from the Group of Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

55. *It was so decided.*

56. **The President** recalled that there remained one outstanding vacancy on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development from the Group of Eastern European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2010.

Committee for Programme and Coordination
(E/2008/9/Add.3)

57. **The President** invited the Council to nominate 20 members for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

58. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Guinea, Nigeria and Swaziland had been endorsed by the Group of African States; India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan and Pakistan had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and Uruguay had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Italy and Spain had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

59. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to nominate the candidates proposed for election by the General Assembly.

60. *It was so decided.*

61. *Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Cuba, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Spain, Swaziland, Ukraine and Uruguay were nominated for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.*

62. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for the Committee for Programme and Coordination, he took it that the Council wished to postpone the nomination of one member from the Group of African States and three members from the Group of Western European and other States for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

63. *It was so decided.*

64. **The President** recalled that there remained two outstanding vacancies on the Committee for Programme and Coordination from the Group of Western European and other States, one for a term expiring on 31 December 2008 and the other expiring on 31 December 2009.

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
(E/2008/9/Add.12)

65. **The President** drew attention to document E/2008/9/Add.12 regarding an application from Nigeria for full membership in the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. He took it

that the Council wished to endorse the Secretary-General's decision to approve Nigeria's application.

66. *It was so decided.*

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/2008/9/Add.4)

67. **The President** invited the Council to elect 21 members to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

68. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Botswana, Eritrea and South Africa had been endorsed by the Group of African States; China, Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; and Germany, Malta and Sweden had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

69. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Western European and other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

70. *It was so decided.*

71. *Botswana, China, Eritrea, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Sweden were elected members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.*

72. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of two members from the Group of African States, three members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and six members from the Group of Western European and other States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

73. *It was so decided.*

74. **The President** recalled that there remained 10 outstanding vacancies on the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. The regional groups concerned were requested to submit nominees for those seats at the earliest opportunity.

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/2008/9/Add.6)

75. **The President** invited the Council to elect 11 members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

76. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Liberia and the Sudan had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Slovenia had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Cuba and Uruguay had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Finland, Norway, Switzerland and the United States of America had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

77. **The President** said that since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

78. *It was so decided.*

79. *Bangladesh, Cuba, Finland, Liberia, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, the Sudan, Switzerland, the United States of America and Uruguay were elected members of the Executive Board of UNICEF.*

80. **The President** said the Council had been informed that Australia, Austria, Greece and the United Kingdom were resigning their seats on the Executive Board of UNICEF, effective 1 January 2009. Canada had been endorsed to complete the term of office of Australia, whose term of office was due to expire on 31 December 2010; Denmark had been endorsed to complete the term of office of Austria, whose term of office was to expire on 31 December 2009; France had been endorsed to complete the term of office of the United Kingdom, whose term of office was to expire on 31 December 2009; and Italy had been endorsed to complete the term of office of Greece, whose term of office was to expire on 31 December 2010. He took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation Canada, Denmark, France and Italy to the Executive

Board of UNICEF for the aforementioned terms of office.

81. *It was so decided.*

82. *Canada, Denmark, France and Italy were elected members of the Executive Board of UNICEF.*

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

83. **The President** drew attention to resolution 62/123 of 18 December 2007, by which the General Assembly decided to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 72 to 76 States and requested the Council to elect the additional members. Accordingly, he invited the Council to elect four States to fill the new seats.

84. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that the candidates were Benin, Luxembourg, Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

85. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation Benin, Luxembourg, Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

86. *It was so decided.*

87. *Benin, Luxembourg, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were elected members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund
(E/2008/9/Add.7)

88. **The President** invited the Council to elect 11 members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

89. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Mauritania and Sierra Leone had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Islamic Republic of Iran and Yemen had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Cuba and Mexico had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

90. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

91. *It was so decided.*

92. *Austria, Cuba, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mauritania, Mexico, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom and Yemen were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund.*

93. **The President** said that the Council had been informed that Australia, Ireland and Italy were resigning their seats on the Board effective 1 January 2009. Finland had been endorsed to complete the term of office of Italy, whose term of office was to expire on 31 December 2010; New Zealand had been endorsed to complete the term of office of Australia, whose term of office was to expire on 31 December 2010; and Turkey had been endorsed to complete the term of office of Ireland, whose term of office was to expire on 31 December 2010. He took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation Finland, New Zealand and Turkey to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund for the aforementioned terms of office.

94. *It was so decided.*

95. *Finland, New Zealand and Turkey were elected to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund.*

Executive Board of the World Food Programme
(E/2008/9/Add.8)

96. **The President** invited the Council to elect six members to the Executive Board of the World Food Programme for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

97. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Angola had been endorsed by the Group of African States; China had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; the Czech Republic had been endorsed by the

Group of Eastern European States; Guatemala had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Japan and the United Kingdom had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

98. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

99. *It was so decided.*

100. *Angola, China, the Czech Republic, Guatemala, Japan and the United Kingdom were elected members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.*

Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) (E/2008/9/Add.9)

101. **The President** invited the Council to elect five members to the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

102. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Thailand had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Brazil had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Denmark and Turkey had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

103. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

104. *It was so decided.*

105. *Brazil, Denmark, Thailand and Turkey were elected members of the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS).*

106. **The President** said that the Council had been informed that Italy, Luxembourg and Monaco were resigning or had resigned their seats on the Programme Coordination Board of UNAIDS. France had been endorsed to complete the term of office of Monaco, whose term of office was to expire on 31 December 2010; Ireland had been endorsed to complete the term of office of Italy, whose term of office was to expire on 31 December 2009; and the Netherlands had been endorsed to complete the term of office of Luxembourg, whose term of office was to expire on 31 December 2009. He took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation France, Ireland and the Netherlands to the Programme Coordination Board of UNAIDS for the aforementioned terms of office.

107. *It was so decided.*

108. *France, Ireland and the Netherlands were elected to the Programme Coordination Board of UNAIDS.*

109. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidate for election to the Programme Coordination Board of UNAIDS, he took it that the Council agreed to postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

110. *It was so decided.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (E/2008/9/Add.10)

111. **The President** invited the Council to elect 19 members to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

112. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Ethiopia, Rwanda, the Sudan and Tunisia had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Bangladesh, China and the Republic of Korea had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Armenia and the Czech Republic had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; and Antigua and Barbuda and Guatemala had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

113. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

114. *It was so decided.*

115. *Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bangladesh, China, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, the*

Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the Sudan and Tunisia were elected to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

116. **The President** invited the Council to take action on one of the outstanding vacancies remaining from previous elections to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

117. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Iraq was the non-endorsed candidate from the Group of Asian States.

118. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidate for election to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation Iraq for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2011.

119. *It was so decided.*

120. *Iraq was elected to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.*

121. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidate for election to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, he took it that the Council agreed to postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Asian States, one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and five members from the Group of Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

122. *It was so decided.*

123. Regarding the outstanding vacancies remaining on the Governing Council of UN-Habitat from previous elections, he also took it that the Council wished to further postpone the election of one member from the Group of Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2008; and two members from the Group of Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2011.

124. *It was so decided.*

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
(E/2008/9/Add.5, Add.11 and Add.13)

125. **The President** invited the Council to elect nine members to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009. The Council had been informed that the Governments of Georgia and Greece had withdrawn the candidacies of Mr. Tabidze and Ms. Kriari-Catranis, respectively.

126. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that Mr. Sa'di (Jordan) and Mr. Zhan Daode (China) had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Mr. Kedzia (Poland) and Mr. Martynov (Belarus) had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Ms. Barahona Riera (Costa Rica) had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Mr. Schrijver (Netherlands) and Mr. Texier (France) had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

127. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

128. *It was so decided.*

129. *Ms. Barahona Riera (Costa Rica), Mr. Kedzia (Poland), Mr. Martynov (Belarus), Mr. Sa'di (Jordan), Mr. Schrijver (Netherlands), Mr. Texier (France) and Mr. Zhan Daode(China) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.*

130. **The President** invited the Council to elect, by secret ballot, two members from the Group of African States.

131. *At the invitation of the President, Ms. Farfan (El Salvador) and Mr. Jatmiko (Indonesia) acted as tellers.*

132. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of valid ballots:	52
Abstentions:	1
Numbers of members voting:	51
Required majority:	26
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Pillay (Mauritius)	44
Mr. Abdel-Moneim (Egypt)	42
Mr. Somda (Burkina Faso)	9
Mr. Mavungu (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	7

133. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Pillay (Mauritius) and Mr. Abdel-Moneim (Egypt) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.*

134. **Mr. Heidt** (United States of America) said that his delegation objected to the selection of candidates by regional groups behind closed doors as that violated the principle of transparency. It disagreed with the decision to elect the Foreign Minister of Belarus, since he was not an independent expert and did not possess recognized competence in the field of human rights.

135. In November 2007, Belarus had been the subject of a resolution detailing its persistent abuse of human rights, the lack of unfair elections, the arrest of government critics, the confiscation of computers and printed material, and the detention of civil society activists in advance of planned demonstrations. Belarus had ignored the resolution and continued to abuse the human rights of its citizens. If the United Nations was serious about advancing basic freedom and human dignity, it must be prepared to hold States accountable for their actions, not elect human rights abusers to human rights bodies.

136. **Mr. Plunkett** (Canada) said his delegation regretted that one of the main apologists for the deteriorating human rights record of Belarus would continue to serve on the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and, once adopted, hearing complaints under the Covenant's Optional Protocol.

137. **Ms. Fedorovich** (Belarus) recalled that the candidate from Belarus had been approved by the relevant regional group. His professional competence could not be called into doubt. The Economic and Social Council had been informed of the candidacy well before the election and had had every opportunity to put forward an objection.

138. The position of Belarus regarding the defence of human rights had been presented numerous times within the framework of the Third Committee and the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Government of Belarus considered that it complied fully with the highest human rights standards.

139. **Mr. Zheglov** (Russian Federation) said that the Russian Federation welcomed the election of the candidate from Belarus, who was known for his experience in human rights work. He regretted that certain delegations had questioned the sovereign right of States to put forward their candidates for election to organs of limited membership and recalled that intervention in the internal affairs of States was a violation of the Charter of the United Nations. He further recalled that, although the resolution on Belarus had been adopted, the majority of States had voted against it or had abstained.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2008/3, E/2008/4, E/2008/8, E/2008/L.2, E/2008/L.3 and E/2008/L.4)

Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies: revised draft annex relating to the World Tourism Organization (E/2008/8)

140. **The President** drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General contained in document E/2008/8. As delegations would recall, the Council, by its decision 2007/247, had decided to defer its consideration of the draft annex to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies relating to the World Tourism Organization until its 2008 substantive session with the proviso that the item could be taken up earlier and a decision adopted without any debate.

141. In November 2007, the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization had approved a revised draft annex which had been prepared by the Legal Counsel of the World Tourism Organization in cooperation with the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, and modified to take into account the concerns raised by certain representatives. That resolution, along with the revised draft annex, had been transmitted in a communication from the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The revised draft annex was contained in document E/2008/8 for the Council's approval.

142. **Ms. Cormon-Veyssière** (France) said that, while her delegation did not object to the revised draft annex, it could not support paragraph 6 thereof, which accorded privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities to the Deputy Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, his/her spouse and minor children.

143. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to take note of the resolution of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization and to recommend the revised draft annex, as contained in document E/2008/8, to the World Tourism Organization for final approval.

144. *It was so decided.*

Report of the Secretary-General on financing of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2008/4)

145. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/2008/4. As delegations would recall, the Council, by its resolution 2007/39, had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report addressing the financing of the Committee's work, including that of its subcommittees, taking into account the issues raised by the Committee at its second annual session, for consideration by the Council at its organizational session for 2008.

146. Owing to a delay in the submission and subsequent issuance of the report, the Council had not been able to consider the matter at its organizational session. At its second meeting held on 5 February 2008, the Council had therefore decided to postpone its consideration of the report until a later stage.

147. **Mr. Montes** (Chief, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on financing of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2008/4), said that the Committee had thus far focused on updating the United Nations Model Double Tax Convention between Developed and Developing Countries (2001) and the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries (2003). That focus was the result of a combination of the limited resources available to the Committee and the urgent need to update both publications.

148. The current report ultimately derived from a request by the Committee in its 2006 report for the necessary action to be taken to provide additional resources not only for face-to-face subcommittee and working group meetings but also for technical cooperation and assistance.

149. The request for additional funding for the face-to-face subcommittees and working groups was based on the Committee's view that, despite the extensive use of electronic communications, the technical and legal issues involved required such meetings to take place, particularly in developing countries. While two of the three such meetings already held had been in developing countries, most of the expert participants had in fact been from developed countries due to the fact that those wishing to attend in their personal capacities relied on financial support from their employers to enable them to do so. That situation created complications and made it difficult for representatives from developing countries to participate fully in such meetings.

150. It was estimated that a total amount of $367,000 would be required to cover 12 meetings of subcommittees and working groups during the course of the biennium. In reviewing funding options to support the Committee's working groups and subcommittees, the Council might wish to consider the following three options: providing additional regular budget resources for all 12 intersessional meetings of the subcommittees and working groups of the Committees; funding up to 10 meetings from the regular budget over the biennium and allowing the Committee the flexibility to prioritize which subcommittees and working groups would hold meetings; or funding the work of the subcommittees and working groups through voluntary contributions.

151. The United Nations had not conducted technical assistance and capacity-building activities in the area of taxation for six years. The request for consideration of funding for such activities in the Committee's recent reports reflected its mandate to make recommendations in that area.

152. While the secretariat of the Committee continued to seek internal funding for technical assistance and capacity-building activities, the report noted that most of those activities would need to be funded through voluntary contributions to the trust fund for tax cooperation matters referred to in Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/39. Since the trust fund had no contributions at present, the Council might wish to further encourage Member States to make contributions to the trust fund.

153. **Ms. Vodeb Ghosh** (Observer for Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that unfortunately there had been insufficient time to consider the report in depth. She therefore requested a deferral of the discussion of the report until a later date.

154. **The President** said he took it that further consultations were required on that matter and that the

Council would therefore need to revert to it at a later date.

Theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of 2008 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/L.2)

155. **The President** drew attention to the draft contained in document E/2008/L.2, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Kim Hyun Chong of the Republic of Korea, on the basis of informal consultations. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision contained in document E/2008/L.2.

156. *It was so decided.*

Economic and Social Council event to discuss relief to development (E/2008/L.4)

157. **The President** drew the attention of the Council to the draft contained in document E/2008/L.4, submitted by the Vice-Presidents of the Council, Mr. Andrei Dapkiunas of Belarus and Mr. Kim Hyun Chong of the Republic of Korea, on the basis of informal consultations. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision contained in document E/2008/L.4.

158. *It was so decided.*

Venue and dates of the twenty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/2008/3 and E/2008/L.3)

159. **The President** drew attention to document E/2008/3, entitled "Letter dated 27 February 2008 from the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to the President of the Economic and Social Council", and to the draft resolution contained in document E/2008/L.3, entitled "Venue and dates of the twenty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia".

160. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Council) said that subsequent to the submission of the draft resolution contained in document E/2008/L.3, the Secretariat had been notified that the twenty-fifth session of the Commission would be held from 26 to 29 May 2008. The second paragraph of the draft resolution should therefore be revised to read as follows: "Approves the holding of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission in Sana'a from 26 to 29 May 2008". The draft resolution, as revised, contained no programme budget implications.

161. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document E/2008/L.3, as orally revised.

162. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.